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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Request for inclusion of an additional item in the provisional agenda of the substantive session of 1992

Letter dated 25 June 1992 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, a number of important decisions taken at the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), including the agreement on establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations, will have a direct bearing on the future work of the Economic and Social Council. Given the importance of these developments, my Government believes that the Council should be informed of them during its forthcoming session.

While it may be possible to discuss UNCED follow-up under an existing agenda item, such as item 21 (Establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Council), it may be more appropriate to address the matter as a separate agenda item. If you agree that a separate agenda item would be more appropriate, I take this opportunity to request the inclusion of the following supplementary agenda item: Post-UNCED institutional arrangements. Attached is a supporting statement as required by rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Council (see annex).

(Signed) Alexander F. WATSON
Ambassador

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* E/1992/100.

Annex

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF A REQUEST TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AN ITEM ON POST-UNCED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

United States of America

A number of important decisions taken at the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), including the agreement on establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations, will have a direct bearing on the future work of the Economic and Social Council.

While recognizing that definitive action will be taken by the General Assembly, we believe it is important that the Council have the opportunity for a preliminary discussion of the issue and to provide input for the General Assembly deliberations. We consider this matter to be of considerable urgency, as the Council should not be overlooked in the process of UNCED follow-up. The United States did not raise this issue when the Council was considering its provisional agenda during its organizational session because it was considered appropriate to await the conclusion of UNCED before determining whether inscription of an additional item was warranted.

In light of developments at UNCED, and the importance the United States attaches to both post-UNCED follow-up and the functioning and relevance of a revitalized Economic and Social Council, the United States now requests the inclusion of an item on post-UNCED institutional arrangements in the current agenda of the Council.